

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 8, 11 and 13 and claims 9-10 have been canceled. The allowable subject matter of claim 10 has been incorporated in to independent claims 8 and 11. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 8 and 11-15 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the provisional allowance of claim 10, as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 8-9 and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soprano (US Patent Number 5,297,136) in view of Isaksson et al (US Patent Number 6,493,395) and Aslanis (US 5, 627,863). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 9 and 10 without prejudice. Therefore, the rejection with respect to this claim is deemed to be moot. The Applicant has amended claims 8, 11 and 13 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 is analogous to independent claim 8. The allowable subject matter in claim 10 has been incorporated into both independent claims 8 and 11. Amended claims 8 and 11 both contain the same allowable subject matter and claims 12-15, which are dependent from amended claim 11, also contain the same allowable subject matter. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8, and 11-15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney L. Weatherford", is written over the typed name.

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